Procurement of Ragi and Jowar from Karnataka

2140. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are procuring ragi and jowar from Karnataka; and

(b) if not, whether Government would take steps to procure ragi and jowar, the staple foodgrains in parts of Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) A quantity of 15413 MT of ragi has been procured by KFCSC (State Government Agency) during current kharif marketing season in Karnataka. However, no jowar has been procured so far.

(b) All arrangements/efforts were made to procure ragi and jowar which conformed to Government of India specifications in current marketing season.

Foodgrain for Food for Work Programme in Karnataka

2141. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of foodgrains being presently released to Karnataka for the Food for Work progrmme;

(b) whether Karnataka has requested to release more foodgrains for the programme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Karnataka Government has also requested to procure ragi and jowar from the State; and

(e) if so, the action, if any, taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) No special allocation of foodgrains has so far been made in favour of Government of Karnataka for food for Work Programme in the

drought affected areas. The Government of Karnataka has demanded 52,500 MT of foodgrains under Food For Work Programme and the proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(d) to (e) A quantity of 15413 MT of ragi has been procured by KFCSC (State Government Agency) during current Kharif Marketing season in Karnataka. However, no quantity of jowar has been procured so far.

Surplus Staff in DMS

2142. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is surplus staff in DMS due to non-utilisation of 40 per cent capacity of the plant;

(b) if so, the details of staff requirement of each wing in proportion to the capacity utilisation;

(c) whether Government have stopped recruitment in DMS because of surplus staff; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that inquiry referred by CBI/CVC in connection with recruitment is pending in the Ministry/DMS for a long time, if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The existing staff component is for 5 lakh litres per day as assessed by Staff Inspection Unit of Ministry of Finance. As the demand for processed milk has come down, a certain percentage of staff in different wings were found to be excess in proportion to the production level at present which is a temporary phase. However, the recruitment process has been freezed apart from abolishing 237 posts.

(d) No such reference has been received from CBI/CVC.